Table of Contents

1. Prologue
2. Allegiances
3. Chapter 1
4. Chapter 2
5. Chapter 3
6. Chapter 4
7. Chapter 5
8. Chapter 6
9. Chapter 7
10. Chapter 8
11. Chapter 9
12. Chapter 10
13. Chapter 11
14. Chpater 12
15. Chapter 13
16. Chapter 14
17. Chapter 15
18. Chapter 16

Prologue

[image]

A silver she-cat sat alone, her fur usually so well groomed was dirty, filled with dirt and twigs. She heard the sound of paw steps as pain filled her. She gritted her teeth to keep from crying out. Shadowclan scent filled her nose as a dark grey Tom burst into the clearing his yellow eyes filled with worry.

"Rockwillow," the she-cat whispered weakly pain gripping her again. "You came,"

Rockwillow touched his nose to hers. "Of course I did. I would go anywhere for you and our kits,"

The silver tabby she-cat was about to reply but it came out as a shriek as a kit slipped onto the ground. It's light grey tabby fur was damp and the kit was still. The tabby couldn't help but stare in shock. A second kit, a silver tomkit came out. The tomkit sucked in a deep breath and went still. She gritted her teeth and closed her eyes as the last kit came out.

"Hey," Rockwillow whispered. "This kit is alive,"

Opening her eyes the silver tabby looked down at a silver and dark grey she-kit and her blue eyes filled with love.

"She's beautiful," she whispered. "Can we call her Stormkit?"

Rockwillow nodded. His eyes filled with sadness. "Will this cat live with you in Riverclan or with me in Shadowclan?"

The silver tabby wanted to keep Stormkit, to raise her as a Riverclan cat. But it couldn't happen. She pushed Stormkit towards Rockwillow refusing to meet his gaze knowing she would see the grief she felt reflected there.

"Look after our kit," her voice trembled. "I'll bury the other two,"

She heard him pad away as she picked up her two dead kits.

"I'm sorry," she whispered to them. "You did nothing to deserve this,"

Allegiances

[image]

Shadowclan

LEADER: Redstar- long haired dark red Tom with green eyes

DEPUTY: Rockwillow- dark gray Tom with yellow eyes
Apprentice: Sagepaw

MEDICINE CAT: Lilyheart- golden dappled she-cat with amber eyes
Apprentice: Daisypaw

WARRIORS:

Oakclaw- dark ginger Tom

Cinderblaze- dark ginger tabby she-cat with Amber eyes

Snowhawk- short haired white Tom with golden eyes and a long tail

Willowfur- pale gray she-cat
Apprentice: Archpaw

Addersky- tortoiseshell Tom with green eyes

Tawnyflight- mottled brown she-cat

Nettlewhiskers- blue gray Tom

APPRENTICES:

Daisypaw- cream she-cat with a black patch over one eye

Sagepaw- speckled gray she-cat with green eyes

Archpaw- black and white Tom

QUEENS:

Ashtail- black she-cat with golden eyes
Mother to Oakclaw's kits: Firekit- ginger and white she-kit and Mousekit- ginger tabby tomkit
Foster Mother to Rockwillow's kit: Stormkit- dark gray and silver she-kit with yellow eyes

ELDERS:

Lichenwing- dark brown she-cat

Quailthorn- pale cream she-cat with long legs and a bob tail

Riverclan

LEADER: Rainstar- blue gray tabby Tom

DEPUTY: Fawnspring- orange and dark ginger she-cat

MEDICINE CAT: Silverstripe- pretty silver tabby she-cat with blue eyes
Apprentice: Frostfur- white Tom with very long whiskers

WARRIORS:

Shredhawk- ragged black Tom
Apprentice: Doepaw

Kestrelfang- brown and white Tom

Dawnrise- black she-cat
Apprentice: Pebblepaw

Fernheart- golden brown she-cat

Fallowstripe- light brown tabby she-cat
Apprentice: Plumpaw

Thrushfeather- sleek sandy coloured Tom

Mallowclaw- pale ginger Tom

APPRENTICES:

Doepaw- slender ginger she-cat

Pebblepaw- white and cream Tom

Plumpaw- pinkish grey she-cat

QUEENS:

Splashheart- light grey she-cat (with darker flecks)
(Expecting Rainstar's kits)

Harepounce- black and gray she-cat
Mother of Kestrelfang's kits: Boulderkit- black tomkit with a white muzzle, Hazelkit, brown and black she-kit and Squirrelkit- grey tabby Tom

ELDERS:

Hollyspeck- black she-cat

Eeldapple- yellow tabby she-cat

Leafspots- ginger Tom with dark ginger chest fur

Mossysky- white and black she-cat

Thunderclan

LEADER: Drizzlestar- grey tabby she-cat

DEPUTY: Violetheart- pinkish orange she-cat with Amber eyes

MEDICINE CAT: Brightwhisker- small dark brown tortoiseshell she-cat

Windclan

LEADER: Vinestar- big white Tom with black paws

DEPUTY: Springflower- pretty red she-cat
Apprentice: Rookpaw

MEDICINE CAT: Beechflight- calico tabby Tom with Amber eyes
Apprentice: Stripepelt- striped black and white Tom

Chapter 1

[image]

(Picture: Stormkit)

She crouched her silver tipped ears twitched to listen to the sounds of the forest. The tree above her blocked at the sun casting an eerie glow on the camp. But it was a flash of ginger fur that caught her attention. Stormkit shot out from her hiding place and knocked over Mousekit. The ginger tomkit looked surprised as Stormkit pinned him down triumphantly.

"Well done," Rockwillow purred passing them.

Stormkit felt a swell of pride. Her Father was the deputy! Out of the corner of her eye Stormkit saw Firekit narrow her eyes and retreat into the bramble thicket that was the nursery. Stormkit's heart sank. She knew why Firekit looked at her like that. It was because no one knew who her Mother was. She knew that Nettlewhiskers, who got his warrior name a quarter moon ago whispered that Stormkit's Mother was a kittypet.

Stormkit fluffed out her dark grey and silver fur suddenly feeling cold in the leaf-bare winds. Rockwillow was already gone, talking to Oakclaw.

"I'm hungry," Mousekit meowed. "Maybe Ashtail will let us try a squirrel this time,"

Stormkit rolled her eyes. "There's no squirrel on the fresh-kill pile mouse-brain,"

Mousekit puffed out his chest. "Oakclaw will catch one!"

Whiskers twitching in amusement Stormkit followed him into the nursery where Ashtail lay, her black fur damp from a recent grooming and golden eyes filled with love. The love wasn't for Stormkit though. It was for Firekit and Mousekit. Ashtail spotted

Stormkit and weariness entered her golden gaze.

"Hi Stormkit," the black queen meowed.

"Hi," Stormkit responded looking at her paws.

She wished she had a Mother that loved her instead of Ashtail who acted like she was an outcast. She knew they would deny it if she asked but Stormkit knew her clan wished she wasn't here.

Chapter 2

[image]

(Picture: Firekit)

Stormkit watched Firekit's fur disappear then reappear from beneath the Elder, Lichenwing's dark brown felt. Quailthorn was grooming her thick pale cream coat. Stormkit wanted to join in but she knew Firekit would stop playing if she walked over.

"Are you going to stare all day?" A voice asked. "It's kind of creepy,"

Stormkit turned around to see Sagepaw's speckled gray fur. The apprentice looked big. *Will I ever be that big?* Stormkit wondered her yellow gaze watching Sagepaw.

"Stormkit?" Sagepaw asked. "Why are you staring?"

"Sorry!" Stormkit responded looking away. "You're just so big!"

Sagepaw snorted. "I'm not big! Well compared to you I am but compared to Redstar... well... anyway you'll be this big someday. You're an apprentice in four moons,"

Stormkit nodded. Four moons was so long though! She'd explored every corner of the camp. Including the Medicine den. As if on queue, Daisypaw's cream pelt came into view. Stormkit could see the black patch over on of Daisypaw's eyes.

"Lilyheart!" The Medicine cat apprentice called.

The golden dappled Medicine cat appeared.

"Daisypaw will finish her training soon" Specklepaw whispered. "She's six moons older then me,"

Stormkit blinked in amazement. Suddenly Archpaw burst into camp, brambles tearing as his black and white fur as he held a lizard triumphantly. Willowfur came in after him her pale gray fur

spotless.

"Lizard!" Firekit cried.

No! Stormkit thought. *I want it!*
She shot forward grabbing the lizard from Archpaw's jaws and racing behind the Elders den.

"Hey!" Firekit hissed as Stormkit took a bite. "I wanted that!"

"You were too slow," Stormkit responded unsheathing her claws.

"That's enough!" Ashtail snapped a appearing by Firekit's side. "Stormkit it's rude to steal prey! Firekit gets it,"

Stormkit stared at her in shock and defiance. "I had it first!"

"Give it to Firekit!" Ashtail snapped.

"Are you being rude to my kit?" Rockwillow asked angrily his dark gray fur standing on end and yellow eyes blazing with fury.

Ashtail looked nervous yet defiant. But the black queen didn't answer, instead age stalked off. Firekit shot Stormkit a glare and followed Ashtail. Stormkit didn't feel hungry anymore.
If I had a proper Mother this wouldn't have happened. Stormkit thought miserably.

Chapter 3

[image]

(Picture: Tawnyflight)

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey gather for a clan meeting!" Redstar's dark red pelt looked ruffled as the Shadowclan leader stood on the hazel branch where he addressed the clan.

Stormpaw could barely contain herself. She'd spent all morning grooming herself. Ashtail had been reluctant to do it and angry that Stormkit was having her apprentice ceremony at the same time as Firekit's and Mousekit's.

Rockwillow sat at the base of the hazel branch looking proud. Lilyheart and Daisypetal, who had recently gotten her full warrior name came out of their den to watch the ceremony. Oakclaw went to sit beside Ashtail who looked proud. Snowhawk sat beside Cinderblaze who's dark ginger tabby belly was swollen with Snowhawk's kits. Willowfur and Tawnyflight finished a frog they'd been sharing and sat down facing Redstar. Nettlewhisker and Addersky went over and joined Rockwillow. The two new warriors Sageheart and Archpelt looked glad. Stormkit guessed they were happy that they wouldn't have to do the apprentices duties anymore. Lichenwing and Quailthorn looked pleased as they came over to watch the ceremony.

"Cats of Shadowclan," Redstar began his green gaze resting on Stormkit, Mousekit and Firekit. "Three kits have become six moons old. They have explored every inch of the camp and gotten into trouble as all kits do. But now it is time for them to experience what it is to be a warrior and the bonds that ties us to our clan," the Shadowclan leader paused. "Nettlewhiskers, you have not yet trained an apprentice butts time you had one. I give you Firepaw. Train her well and make her a warrior Shadowclan can be proud of,"

"Count on it," the blue gray Tom purred touching noses with

Firepaw.

"Firepaw! Firepaw! Firepaw!" The clan cheered. Ashtail was the loudest of them all.

"Addersky," Redstar continued facing the tortoiseshell Tom. "I give you Mousepaw to mentor. Teach him the battle skills you are known for,"

Addersky nodded touching noses with the ginger apprentice.

"Mousepaw! Mousepaw! Mousepaw!" The clan cheered again welcoming the new apprentice.

Stormkit felt nervous as Redstar's gaze fell on her.

"Tawnyflight," the Shadowclan leader meowed. "You were once my apprentice. I am trusting you to train Stormpaw well in the ways of a warrior,"

"Stormpaw!" Rockwillow yowled.

"Stormpaw!" Oakclaw joined in despite a dirty look from Ashtail.

"Stormpaw!" Lilyheart and Daisypetal cheered.

"Stormpaw!" Sageheart joined in.

The clan joined in until only Archpelt, Ashtail, Firepaw and Quailthorn hadn't joined in.

"Since when are kittypets warriors?" Quailthorn hissed quietly to Lichenwing.

Lichenwing glared at her. "You really think she's a kittypet?! I doubt it even if we don't know who her Mother is!"

I'm not a kittypet! Stormpaw thought touching noses with Tawnyflight. *I'll show them! I'll find out who my Mother is just you wait!*

Chapter 4

[image]

(Picture: Frostfur the Riverclan Medicine Cat)

"Where are we going first?" Stormpaw's yellow eyes glittered with excitement as she and her new mentor Tawnyflight passed the marshes. "Are we hunting? It's Newleaf so it's easy right? Wait what about battle moves? There could be a battle at any moment! Patrol?"

The mottled brown warrior looked amused. "My whiskers will be grey by the time your're a warrior! No we are exploring the territory starting at the Greenleaf Twolegplace,"

As they approached it Stormpaw could scent a fishy scent, it was fresh too.

"What is that smell?" Stormpaw asked tensing.

"Riverclan," Tawnyflight answered.

As they broke away from the pine trees Stormpaw spotted a white Tom with long whiskers bending down and grabbing a leafy plant in his jaws. The leafy plant smelled good and Stormpaw found herself wishing she could eat it. She felt foolish just thinking it.

"Hello," Tawnyflight greeted the Riverclan cat.

Stormpaw felt curious. She'd sworn she'd see Lilyheart carrying that leafy plant before.

"Are you a Medicine cat?" Stormpaw asked.

The Tom faced her. "Medicine cat apprentice," he corrected. "I didn't know you had an apprentice Tawnyflight,"

"She just became an apprentice today," Tawnyflight responded. "Stormpaw meet Frostfur. Frostfur meet Stormpaw,"

Frostfur dipped his head and Stormpaw copied not sure what she was meant to do.

"Where's Silverstripe?" Tawnyflight asked. "Is she coming to the Gathering tonight? She hasn't been for moons and moons,"

Frostfur looked troubled. "Maybe. She has been busy though,"

Tawnyflight didn't look like she believed Frostfur.

"Who's Silverstripe?" Stormpaw asked.

"My mentor," Frostfur answered.

Is there something wrong with Silverstripe? Stormpaw wondered. *If there is then why does Frostfur seem so reluctant to say so?* Stormpaw felt confused. *Was Silverstripe sick?*

"Let's go and finish our tour," Tawnyflight meowed.

Stormpaw nodded looking over at Frostfur. "Bye!" She called as she raced after Tawnyflight.

Chapter 5

[image]

(Picture: Mousepaw)

"How would you like to go to the Gathering?" Tawnyflight asked.

Stormpaw looked up excitedly from where she had been eating a frog. She'd only just become an apprentice and she'd get to go to the Gathering!

"Well?" Tawnyflight was looking at her expectantly. Stormpaw nodded her head vigorously. With a purr of amusement Tawnyflight headed over to where Willowfur sat grooming her pale gray fur.

"You're lucky!" Mousepaw cried padding up to her his ginger fur wet and muddy.

Stormpaw looked at him quizzically. "Why are you wet?"

"Well Addersky was showing me hunting places. We came to the marsh and I fell in," Mousepaw answered.

Stormpaw's whiskers twitched. Mousepaw glared at her though his eyes sparkled with laughter. "Don't you twitch your whiskers at me!"

Stormpaw stuck her tongue out and Mousepaw shook out his fur splattering mud all over Stormpaw's fur. Stormpaw jumped on him and they rolled around wrestling.

"Yuck! Don't get mud on me!" Firepaw snapped looking in dismay at her mud covered ginger and white fur.

At least Mouspaw likes me. Stormpaw thought as Firepaw growled at her.

"It's just a bit of mud Firepaw," Mousepaw meowed. "It's not like you won't get dirty eventually anyway,"

"You can help me groom my pelt," Firepaw snapped.

Mousepaw shot an apologetic glance at Stormpaw and went over to join his sister. Stormpaw's heart sank. Why did Firepaw have to ruin everything? Stormpaw sighed and began to groom her own muddy dark gray and silver coat.

Chapter 6

[image]

Stormpaw stuck to Rockwillow's side as the cats headed towards the Gathering Island. The full moon cast a silver light down on the Shadowclan cats. Her clan seemed to be making no noise at all as they padded past Riverclan territory.

"Are you excited?" Rockwillow asked.

"Yes!" Stormpaw answered. "I can't wait to meet the other clans!"

"Aren't you nervous at all?" Rockwillow asked.

"Nope," Stormpaw replied. "Why would I be nervous?"

Rockwillow purred. It wasn't long before they reached the tree bridge. "Be careful," Rockwillow whispered.

Stormpaw unsheathed her claws digging them into the bark so she wouldn't fall. She got across and waited for the rest of her clan. Redstar gave her a nod of approval and bounded away to join the other clan leaders. The rest of her clan melted into the shadows silently mixing with the other clans. Stormpaw found herself in a pack of apprentices. She wished Mousepaw had come. She felt lost sitting with these cats she didn't know.

"Hi!" A pretty tortoiseshell cat purred. "Is this your first Gathering? You're small. Did you just become am apprentice?"

Stormpaw breathed in her scent. She smelt of heather and rabbits. *I guess she's a Windclan cat.* Stormpaw thought. *I've never smelt this scent before.*
The Windclan apprentice tilted her head to the side.

"I'm Stormpaw. I just became an apprentice today," Stormpaw replied."And this is my first Gathering,"

"I'm Flowerpaw," The tortoiseshell cat responded. She pointed with

her tail to a light brown tabby Tom who was chatting away with three other apprentices. "That's my brother Midgepaw. Those cats he's talking to are Cloudpaw and Risingpaw from Windclan and that dappled brown she-cat is Hazelpaw from Thunderclan,"

Stormpaw watched Midgepaw boast to the other apprentices for a moment then faced Flowerpaw. "Who are the leaders?" Stormpaw asked.

"Well that's my leader Vinestar that big white Tom. Most cats from other clans remember him because of his big blacks paws," Flowerpaw answered.

Stormpaw looked over to where Vinestar sat. He was big compared to his clanmates.

"The gray tabby is Drizzlestar from Thunderclan," Flowerpaw went on. "And that blue gray tabby is Rainstar from Riverclan,"

Stormpaw nodded scanning the crowd of Riverclan cats. She spotted Frostfur at the base of the tree where the leaders were sitting. Beside Frostfur sat a sickly looking silver tabby with glazed blue eyes.
That must be Silverstripe the Medicine cat. Stormpaw thought. Silverstripe's gaze was darting through the crowd of cats as if looking for someone.

"Let the Gathering begin!" Redstar yowled.

Stormpaw felt too distracted by Silverstripe to listen to the leaders make their report. Finally the leaders jumped down from the tree and began talking in low voices to each other.

"Want to meet the other apprentices?" Flowerpaw asked.

Stormpaw shook her head and padded around not yet willing to talk to anyone. She felt puzzled by Silverstripe. Suddenly the silver Medicine cat was in front of Stormpaw. Stormpaw fell back in surprise and shock.

"You surprised me!" She cried sitting up.

"Sorry," Silverstripe meowed her gaze fixed intently on Stormpaw. "I usually come and greet the new apprentices. And from what I see you are a new apprentice,"

Really? Stormpaw thought. *Tawnyflight said you haven't been to the Gathering in moons and moons.*

"Shadowclan it's time to go!" Redstar called.

Stormpaw raced after her clan. She looked back at Silverstripe who was still watching her.

Chapter 7

[image]

(Picture: Cinderblaze)

Stormpaw felt a paw prod her in the side. She swiped at it and rolled over in her nest. Couldn't she be left alone? All she wanted to do was sleep. The Gathering had left her exhausted.

"Stormpaw wake up!" Mousepaw hissed in her ear. He sounded nervous. "It's important!"

Stormpaw looked up at him groggily. "What?"

"The whole clans awake!" Mousepaw told her. "Cinderblaze is having her kits but they are early,"

Stormpaw flattened her ears as she came out of the Apprentices den. Cats were crowded around the nursery. Redstar was standing beside Oakclaw who was sheathing and unsheathing his claws. Willowfur was trying to reassure Snowhawk who was pacing the camp clearing his eyes wild with fear for his mate.

Addersky and Nettlewhiskers were bristling their teeth bared as if daring Starclan to hurt Cinderblaze. Tawnyflight, Sageheart and Archpelt were sitting together their gazes fixed firmly on the nursery. Lichenwing was grooming her pelt as if undaunted but Stormpaw could see the dark brown tabby's fur stood on end despite her attempts to smooth it down. Quailthorn sat beside Firepaw who looked scared.

"Where's Ashtail?" Stormpaw asked surprised at how steady her voice was.

"In the nursery with Cinderblaze, Lilyheart and Daisypetal," Mousepaw answered.

Suddenly Sageheart sat down beside them.

"I had just become an apprentice when Ashtail kitted," Sageheart told them. "To be honest I had wanted you to be kitted earlier so I could have more denmates to play with. Archpelt was as grumpy as he is now when we were kits. Stormpaw you had already been kitted but you were in the medicine den because Ashtail didn't have milk yet to feed you. Daisypaw and Lilyheart were really worried. They didn't think you'd have survived much longer without milk,"

Stormpaw's froze. "Wasn't their a she-cat with me when I was born?"

Sageheart shrugged. "Rockwillow came into camp at Moonhigh with you," Sageheart paused. "I think he might have been grieving. It looked like it but he wouldn't answer any questions,"

Stormpaw narrowed her eyes. "Was he close to any she-cats in the clan?"

Sageheart shook his head. Before Stormpaw could ask anything more Ashtail burst out of the nursery her eyes sparkling with joy. "Three kits! All healthy!"

Chapter 8

[image]

(Picture: Cinderblaze and Snowhawk's kits; Left kitten- Amberkit, Middle kitten- Whitekit and right kitten- Morningkit)

It had been four sunrises since Amberkit, Whitekit and Morningkit had been born to Cinderblaze and Snowhawk. All three kits had opened their eyes and were already getting under everyone's paws with Amberkit as the leader of the three. Stormpaw had caught her first squirrel and had watched with pride as Redstar had eaten it.

"Hi Stormpaw!" Amberkit purred padding up with Whitekit and Morningkit. Amberkit leaned over and whispered in Whitekit's ear. "See Whitefur? This is Stormheart. She's a Windclan warrior pretending to be a Shadowclan apprentice so she can spy on us,"

The tomkit nodded flattening his ears and baring his tiny teeth.

"Whitefur! Morningtail! I Amberstar leader of Shadowclan order you to attack this Windclan spy!" Amberkit yowled.

Stormpaw felt Amberkit's tiny claws dig into her fur. Whitekit followed close behind. Morningkit looked nervous and lost but she copied Amberkit. Stormpaw staggered pretending to fall and being careful not to squash the kits as she remembered playing with Oakclaw and Rockwillow. Mousepaw padded over to where Stormpaw was being attacked by the kits and pretended to look horrified. "No Stormheart! They've figured it out!"

"Quick help me Mousewhisker!" Stormpaw cried choking back a purr of amusement.

"Get him!" Amberkit squealed jumping on Mousepaw and pummelling him with her tiny paws.

Cinderblaze was watching from the nursery her expression a mixture of amusement and pride. Suddenly Ashtail appeared by

Cinderblaze's side. The black she-cat had decided to help out Cinderblaze in the nursery. Stormpaw's heart sank as she heard Ashtail speaking to Cinderblaze.

"Why are you letting a cat who may as well be half kittypet play with your kits?" Ashtail hissed.

Cinderblaze glared at Ashtail. "There is nothing wrong with Stormpaw! Who cares if she's part badger? She's a good cat and I trust her. You should stop acting like a mouse-brain Ashtail. You're supposed to help me look after my kits not tell me who they can and can't play with,"

Relief flooded through Stormpaw.
I will find out who my Mother is. Stormpaw silently vowed. *Even if it takes me a thousand moons.*

Chapter 9

[image]

(Picture: Addersky, Mousepaw's mentor)

"Today we are doing battle training," Tawnyflight declared.

Stormpaw looked up from where she'd been eating a frog. "Really?"

"Yes," Tawnyflight answered. "Mousepaw, Addersky, Nettlewhiskers and Firepaw will be joining us,"

Stormpaw's heart sank. *Why does Firepaw have to come?*
She didn't speak the words but she thought them. Firepaw seemed to hate her even more now because she was friends with Mousepaw.

Stormpaw just nodded and followed her mentor through the pine forest. Nettlewhiskers, Firepaw, Addersky and Mousepaw joined them. Suddenly Stormpaw smelt a frog! Flicking her tail she slithered silently along the ground to the marsh. She could just see the frog which was almost perfectly camouflaged in the mud.

"Come on Stormpaw!" Firepaw hissed. "It's in the mud so don't bother!"

Scaredy mouse. Stormpaw thought as she slid into the wet mud. She didn't actually mind the feel of the water around her fur. Quickly she darted forward as fast as a snake and killed the frog with a quick bite to the neck.

Stormpaw returned to the edge of the marsh where the other cats were waiting. Nettlewhiskers looked surprised. "Do you like getting your fur wet?!"

"A little water never hurt anybody," Stormpaw answered. She didn't really understand why her clanmates were against getting wet. It wasn't so bad. Firepaw hissed in annoyance. Stormpaw followed her

clanmates until Tawnyflight stopped.

"Today I'm going to teach you my favourite move," Addersky meowed. "Watch me as I demonstrate,"

The tortoiseshell Tom reared up on his hind legs slashing at the air before coming down again. *What if someone attacks your hind legs?* Stormpaw wondered. As if Addersky had read her mind he faced her. "Stormpaw when I do it again run at my back legs,"

Confused Stormpaw nodded. As Addersky reared up Stormpaw charged at his hind legs. *He's going to fall!* Stormpaw thought. But her thoughts were short lived. When she got close enough to Addersky slammed his front paws into her back. He didn't do it hard and Stormpaw rolled over.

"That's a good move for tricking your enemies," Addersky explained as Stormpaw sat up. "After you slam your paws down they'll be slow to react. You can fight them while they are still recovering,"

"What if they avoid your attack when you slam your paws down?" Mousepaw asked.

"They'll most likely get behind you," Tawnyflight answered. "So you can buck like a rabbit,"

"Can we try?" Stormpaw asked.

Addersky nodded. "You and Firepaw can practise together and I'll work with Mouspaw,"

Dismay filled Stormpaw. She could see that Firepaw looked annoyed. Stormpaw didn't argue just faced Firepaw. Stormpaw watched as Firepaw reared up. Stormpaw ran at her hind legs. As Stormpaw spotted Firepaw's front paws coming down she darted to the side. Firepaw's paws landed on the ground as she bucked like a rabbit. Thinking fast and determined not to be out done by Firepaw Stormpaw slipped under the apprentices belly and arched her back, pushing Firepaw up with her spine. The ginger and white apprentice screeched with rage. "You cheated!"

Nettlewhiskers snorted. "She didn't cheat she just beat you "

Firepaw's eyes were wild with rage. "She cheated! I'd never get beaten by a kittypet!"

Every cat froze. Stormpaw felt the fur along her spine stand on end as she unsheathed her claws. *I'm not a kittypet!* Stormpaw didn't feel angry. She just felt determined to prove Firepaw wrong.

Chapter 10

[image]

Stormpaw stretched her jaws into a wide yawn. She felt optimistic about today. It had been two moons since she had begun her training as a warrior apprentice. Willowfur had moved to the nursery expecting Nettlewhiskers kits.

Leaving the Apprentices den Stormpaw spotted Lilyheart and Daisypetal returning from the Moonpool. Lilyheart's Amber eyes were dark. Stormpaw's heart sank. *Is something bad going to happen? Did Starclan say something was wrong?*

Pushing it out of her mind Stormpaw grabbed a fat mouse from the fresh-kill pile. She spotted Morningkit sniffing the fresh-kill pile looking lost.

"First time?" Stormpaw asked. Morningkit jumped in surprise and nodded. "Try a mouse then," Stormpaw suggested. "You can have some of mine,"

Morningkit padded over sniffing the mouse wearily and taking a small bite. The two moon old kit wrinkled her nose. Stormpaw knew how Morningkit felt. She hadn't liked prey the first time either. "It's better after a few bites," Stormpaw promised eating her share of the mouse. Morningkit ate as much as she could.

"Do you like it?" Stormpaw asked curiously.

"I guess," Morningkit murmured running back to the nursery.

Looking around Stormpaw spotted Rockwillow coming out of the warriors den. Suddenly Stormpaw thought of something and felt stupid for not thinking of it before. *Rockwillow can tell me who my Mother is!*

Stormpaw ran over to her Father. "Can I talk to you alone?"

Rockwillow nodded looking surprised and followed Stormpaw from camp. They sat down together beneath the pine trees. "Well?" Rockwillow asked.

"Who's my Mother?" Stormpaw asked.

Rockwillow drew a dark gray paw over one ear. "Does it matter?"

"Yes," Stormpaw answered. "Every cat has a right to know who their Mother is,"

Rockwillow didn't reply. "Tell me!" Stormpaw cried.

"You don't need to know," Rockwillow responded. "You'll never meet her anyway,"

Stormpaw had seen the love in Cinderblaze's and Ashtail's eyes when they looked at their kits. Stormpaw wanted a cat, a Mother who looked at her with love and who took pride in her. Trembling about what she had decided to do she turned her back on her Father.

"Fine," she kept her voice as firm as she could. "But if I can't have a Mother then I can't have a Father either,"

Stormpaw's heart ached as she padded away. But she refused to look into her Father's yellow eyes and see the shock that was undoubtedly there. So she padded back to Shadowclan camp and did not look back.

Chapter 11

[image]

(Picture: Sunny who you will meet in this chapter)

When every cat was asleep except Snowhawk who was on guard duty Stormpaw sneak out of the camp. Her heart sank at the thought of what she was doing and what she would find out.

Stormpaw ran through Shadowclan territory until she came to the Twolegplace. Sneaking over the wooden Twoleg barrier she walked through the darkness.

"Isn't it a bit late for you to be out of your den?" A plump dark tabby kittypet asked as he sat on the Twoleg barrier.

"Den?" Stormpaw echoed.

Does this kittypet no about clan cats?

"Yeah your Twoleg den," the kittypet responded.

Oh. Stormpaw bristled. "I'm not a kittypet! I'm a clan cat!"

The kittypets eyes widened in terror as it bolted for the safety of its Twolegs. Stormpaw sighed continuing on."Are you really a clan cat?" Someone asked.

Stormpaw turned around to see a ginger kittypet with a bushy tail. "Yes " Stormpaw answered.

The kittypet tilted her head. "Why are you here then?" The kittypet asked "My name is Sunny,"

"I'm looking for a cat who might have had kits eight moons ago with a clan cat," Stormpaw answered. "And I'm Stormpaw,"

"What did this cat look like?" Sunny asked.

Stormpaw's heart hammered in her chest. "He has dark gray like me, with yellow eyes,"

"There was a cat who came here a while back,"'Sunny replied. "But he never talked to us. He'd chase us away and go right through the Twolegplace. Then he'd go all the way back again to where you came from,"

Relief flooded through Stormpaw. She wasn't a kittypet!

"Did that help?" Sunny asked.

Stormpaw nodded and began heading back to Shadowclan territory. "Thank you!" She called to Sunny.

The ginger kittypet dipped her head. Stormpaw raced back to camp and sneak into camp. She crept into the apprentices den and curled up,in her nest.

I'm not a kittypet! But her triumph was replaced with confusion. *If Rockwillow wasn't seeing a kittypet then why was he passing through the Twolegplace? And where was he going?*

Chpater 12

[image]

(Picture: Oakclaw, Father of Mousepaw and Firepaw)

Stormpaw's heart soared the next morning. *I'm not a kittypet! I'm not a kittypet!*
Tawnyflight looked amused at her as she gave each of her clanmates a smile. But one thought still lingered. *I still don't know who my Mother is.*

Suddenly Stormpaw spotted Oakclaw coming into camp with Addersky, Mousepaw, Sageheart, Archpelt and Redstar. *Oakclaw is Rockwillow's friend. Maybe he knows something.*

Stormpaw padded over to the dark ginger Tom and sat beside him. "In the moons before I was born did he go anywhere going somewhere when no one was looking?" Stormpaw asked.

"Well Rockwillow was always distracted and he wouldn't go to Gatherings," Oakclaw answered. "But nothing unusual," Oakclaw hesitated and talked in a low voice. "Well actually once he came back to camp wet with bark in his claws. There were twigs in his fur too. This was outside of the camp when I was hunting early,"

"He could have been climbing," Stormpaw responded.

"Well then why would he be wet?" Oakclaw asked. "Bark, water I've seen cats like that before. When Nettlewhiskers was an apprentice fell of the tree bridge and into the water. There was bark in his claws from where he'd been clawing at the bark to try and get up,"

"Are you saying he went to the Gathering Island?" Stormpaw asked.

"Yes," Oakclaw answered. "That's what I think,"

"Then why would he..." Stormpaw trailed off.

He must have gone to the Twolegplace so no cat would follow him. If he

was meeting with a rogue or a loner then he wouldn't need to go to the Gathering Island.

Before Stormpaw could think about it anymore Tawnyflight was calling to her. Stormpaw raced over to her mentor. But her thoughts were scattered. The realisation hit her. Why would Rockwillow go to the Gathering Island. *To meet with a cat from another clan!*

Chapter 13

[image]

(Picture: Stormpaw)

Stormpaw trained vigorously for the next few moons and it wasn't long until it was half way through Greenleaf. Cinderblaze and Snowhawk's kits were six moons old and we're now apprentices. Willowfur and Nettlewhiskers kits had been born, Pinekit, Fernkit, Pouncekit and Gorsekit.

For some reason Lilyheart had also been watching her closely. But she pushed all of this out of her mind as Redstar continued with her warrior ceremony.

"Stormpaw, from this day fourth you shall be known as Stormfire. Starclan honours your loyalty and determination and we welcome you as a full warrior of Shadowclan," Redstar announced.

Stormfire took her spot beside the newly named Firetail and Mousewing. Stormfire felt none of the excitement her denmates felt though. *My Mother should be here cheering for me. In face I still don't know who she is.*

From where she was standing Stormfire could see Rockwillow refusing to meet her gaze. Stormfire didn't look at him though she wished everything were normal. But how could they be when Rockwillow refused to tell her the answer to the question she had wanted to know for so long?

Stormfire couldn't push the thought from her mind as she followed Sageheart into the warriors den. *I just know I won't be satisfied until I find my Mother. Please help me Starclan. I have to know.*

(Sorry it's short! I've done quite a few chapters today. What? No I'm not saying that it's not a reason for why this chapters short. Thank you so much if you have been ready this series! 👍 to you)

Chapter 14

[image]

(Picture: Tessa)

Stormfire tasted the air and shivered. It was cold even though it was Newleaf. Stormfire looked up to see the moon was almost full.
The Gathering is in two days. I wonder if I'll go? Maybe I can look at the cats from other clans and see if I look like them. Maybe I'll find my Mother.

But something held Stormfire back. She was afraid of who her Mother would be.
But I already know my Mother is from a different clan. Why am I so scared?
Shaking her head Stormfire watched the camp again, continuing with her vigil.

She stopped Firetail giving her an annoyed look. Stormfire felt puzzled. What did Firetail have against her? Stormfire looked up at the sky and watched the sun begin to rise.

"Hey, you're vigil is over," Tawnyflight meowed padding up to the three new warriors. Her mottled brown fur was sticking up in places. Stormfire guessed she hadn't slept well.

Standing up and stretching her stiff limbs Stormfire followed her former mentor into the warriors den. Nests had already been made for them.

"Thank you," Stormfire meowed dipping her head to Tawnyflight.

Tawnyflight shrugged. Stormfire lay in her new nest and felt sleep take over.

****

A paw prodded Stormfire in the side. Stormfire rolled over her back

to however had prodded her.

"Get up weasel-breath!" Firetail hissed. "We are on patrol!"

Stormfire shot up nearly knocking over Firetail who hissed at her.

"Sorry," Stormfire apologised.

Firetail's only answer was a hiss before she left the den. Stormfire followed.

"There you are," Archpelt narrowed his eyes. "Addersky, Cinderblaze, Redstar and I have been waiting,"

"There is no need to be rude Archpelt," Redstar told the angry black and white warrior. "She must have been tired after her vigil. Just like you were,"

Archpelt looked embarrassed at Redstar's words and shrugged.

"Come on," Addersky meowed. "I'm leading this patrol and I say lets go,"

Stormfire followed the patrol as they came towards the Twolegplace. "Stupid kittypets," she heard Cinderblaze mutter.

Suddenly Stormfire heard a noise.

"What's that?!" Archpelt hissed.

"I'll go look," Stormfire offered. "If I need help I'll yell out,"

Redstar nodded. Stormfire padded over to the sound to see a pale ginger loner with yellow eyes sitting.

"Ah it worked," the loner purred. "My names Tessa. You must be Stormfire. Sunny told me about you. I hear you want to know who your Mother is? Well every time I saw Rockwillow come through the Twolegplace he had the scent of those swimming clan cats. He disgusted his scent before he came back to this territory. He and I talked once,"

Scent of those swimming cats? She must mean Riverclan! So my Mother is from Riverclan.

"Do you know who he was seeing?" Stormfire asked.

"Yes," Tessa answered. "I know who he was seeing but it's not my place to tell you. It should come from Rockwillow or your Mother now I must be going,"

Tessa was gone before Stormfire could say anything else.

Chapter 15

[image]

(Picture: Mousewing)

Stormfire sat alone in the marshes thinking about Tessa's words. *That's why I didn't mind swimming in the marsh that time. It's because I'm half Riverclan.*

She didn't notice him creep up behind her.

"Stormfire?" A voice asked.

Stormfire jumped and turned around to face Mousewing. He looked embarrassed.

"I want to ask you something," the ginger tabby meowed. "Will you... I mean if you want to... I..." Mousewing paused clearing his throat. "Stormfire will you be my mate?"

Stormfire stared up him feeling shocked. "But what will Ashtail say? And Firetail?"

"Who cares?" Mousewing asked.

Stormfire stared at him. There was longing in his gaze. Stormfire touched her nose to his. "Yes, I will,"

"Thank you," Mousewing whispered.

They returned to camp again their tails entwined. *I have to ask Rockwillow.* Stormfire pushed the thought from her mind but it came back agin. She faced Mousewing. "I need to talk to Rockwillow,"

Mousewing nodded. Stormfire raced off running to where Rockwillow sat. He looks surprised to see her and Stormfire knew he was thinking about the last time they spoke.

"You and I need to talk," Stormfire meowed.

To her surprise Rockwillow listened following her out of camp. They sat down.

"I'm not going to tell you anything so I don't know why you try. Why do you care anyway? You know nothing about your Mother," Rockwillow growled.

"I know that you and her went to the Gathering Island to see her. I know that you went through the Twolegplace so you wouldn't cause suspicion. I know you talked to a cat named Tessa. I know you'd always disguise your scent because her scent was on your fur," Stormfire leaned closer. "And I know she was from Riverclan,"

Rockwillow stared at her with shock, surprise and amazement. "H-how do you know that?"

"It doesn't matter," Stormfire responded. She hesitated not wanting to say what she was going to say. "And if you don't tell me who she is I'll tell the entire clan that you took a Riverclan mate,"

Rockwillow narrowed his eyes. "You wouldn't,"

Stormfire raised her eyes at him. "Really?"
I'm desperate enough to.

Rockwillow sighed closing his yellow eyes. "Your Mother is Silverstripe,"

Chapter 16

[image]

(Picture: Silverstripe)

Stormfire sat at the Gathering feeling numb with shock. It had been three sunrises since Rockwillow had told her Silverstripe was her Mother. But she couldn't stop the horror she felt.
You knew she was from Riverclan. A voice in her head whispered.
Why is it different know that you know who she is?

Stormfire pressed closer to Mousewing feeling comforted by his presence. As the clans began to share tongues Stormfire pushed her way through the crowd of cats and ran to where Silverstripe sat. The Medicine cat looked sick like she was dying. There was love in her eyes as her gaze fell on Stormfire.

"This will be my last Gathering," the Medicine cat rasped. "I can see it in your eyes that you know the truth,"

"Yes I do," Stormfire meowed.

"I still wished you could have grown up in Riverclan with your littermates," Silverstripe continued. "But how could I explain your presence to my clan without telling the truth?"

"I have littermates?" Stormfire asked.

"Yes," Silverstripe answered. "But Mistykit and Sagekit walk with Starclan. I hope someday you will meet them in your dreams Stormfire,"

"Shadowclan lets go!" Redstar called.

"Farewell my daughter," Silverstripe meowed. "This is the last time we will meet before I join our ancestors,"

Stormfire watched her Mother walk away.

Now I know the truth. If only I had got to know you better Silverstripe. Goodbye. May you find swift hunting and shelter where you sleep.

As she watched the Medicine cat walk away Stormfire thought she heard Silverstripe whisper something.

"Storm, Brindle, Hazel and Cloud are the cure to this threat we will share,"